

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10360 142219Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 141214Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7149

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FOLLOWING TEL BOMBAY 1797 DTD 13 JUL 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IN

SUBJ: SOCIALISTS ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF DYNAMITE

1. ALL LOCAL DAILIES REPORT TODAY THAT SPEAKING TO THE STATE
LEGISLATURE ON JULY 12, MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER S.B.CHAVAN
ANNOUNCED THAT "SOME PERSONS IN POSSESSION OF BARODA-TYPE
DYNAMITE STICKS" WERE ARRESTED IN BOMBAY "ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO."
HE FURTHER SAID THAT "A CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTY PROCLAIMING FAITH
IN NONVIOLENCE INDULGED IN NONVIOLENT ACTIVITIES AND THE ARRESTED
ACTIVISTS BELONG TO THAT PARTY."

2. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT ON JULY 10 GOI MINISTER OF STATE
FOR HOME AFFAIRS OM MEHTA STATED IN AHMEDABAD THAT ALL THE
PRELIMINARIES REGARDING THE BARODA DYNAMITE CASE INQUIRY ARE OVER
AND THAT CHARGES WILL BE FILED SOON AGAINST THOSE ARRESTED FOR
THEIR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT. MEHTA IS CITED AS STATING THAT THE GOI
HAS NOW ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT THE CONSPIRATORS INTENDED
TO OVERTHROW THE LEGALLY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO
HIM THE ARREST OF SOCIALIST PARTY NATIONAL PRESIDENT GEORGE

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FERNANDES "THE PRIME SUSPECT AND MAIN CONSPIRATOR," FACILITATED

THE COMPLETION OF THE INVESTIGATION.

3. COMMENT: CHIEF MINISTER CHAVAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT IS THE FIRST SINCE THE PROCLAMATION OF THE EMERGENCY OF ARRESTS OF OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS IN MAHARASHTRA FOR POSSESSING EXPLOSIVES. A BOMBAY POLICE SOURCE TOLD US THAT THE SIX OR SEVEN ARRESTED MEN ARE SOCIALIST PARTY ACTIVISTS. FURTHER, SOMETIME IN MAY LOCAL SOCIAL-IS PARTY PRESIDENT DR G.G.PAREKH WAS INTERROGATED ABOUT HIS SUSPECTED LINKS WITH BARODA DYNAMITE CASE. PAREKH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED UNDER MISA AND IS STILL DETAINED.

4. WHEN TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BOMBAY ARRESTS, MEHTA'S AHMEDABAD STATEMENT SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THE GOI PLANS AT LAST, TO FILE FORMAL CHARGES IN DYNAMITE CASE, OVER FOUR MONTHS AFTER THE INITIAL ARRESTS OF 12 MEN. OF THOSE INITIALLY ARRESTED FIVE, INCLUDING THE TWO JOURNALISTS, ARE STILL IN EXTENDED JUDICIAL CUSTODY. THREE OTHERS WERE RELEASED ON BAIL AND FOUR EXONERATED. PRABHUDAS PATWARI, 6A SENIOR WORKER FROM GUJARAT, ONE WHO WAS RELEASED UNDER BAIL, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED UNDER MISA. COURTNEY

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